

32 THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND BANK

eastward had become considerably reduced, and the outline of the ships very indistinct.¹

[*The German Battle Fleet sighted*]

' At 4.38 p.m. *Southampton* ² (Commodore William E. Goodenough, M.V.O., A.D.C.) reported the enemy's Battle Fleet ahead. The destroyers were recalled, and at 4.42 p.m. the enemy's Battle Fleet was sighted SE. Course was altered 16 points in succession to starboard, and I proceeded on a northerly course to lead them towards the Battle Fleet.³ The enemy battle-cruisers altered course shortly afterwards, and the action continued. *Southampton*, with the 2nd Light-cruiser Squadron, held on to the southward to observe. They closed to within

¹ Of the action between 3.48-4.43 p.m. the German 'explanation' states, 'Our cruisers have advanced to 13 kilometres from the English battle-cruisers and destroyers, which meanwhile have moved southwards, and open fire on southerly to south-easterly courses. In the course of this fight two English battle-cruisers [*Queen Mary, Indefatigable*] and a destroyer were sunk.'

² A light cruiser, *Chatham* class, 5,400 tons, 25 knots, 6-inch and lesser armament.

³ The German semi-official communication describes the situation at 4.42 p.m.: 'Soon afterwards [after the *Queen Elizabeths* came into sight] the German main force entered the fight. The enemy at once turned to the north, and the five [*sic*] vessels of the *Queen Elizabeth* class followed the English battle-cruisers.' It misrepresents the object of Beatty's movement: 'At the greatest speed the enemy attempted to evade our extremely effective fire by assuming *échelon* formation, trying thereby on an eastern course to overtake our advanced end [of the line]. Our fleet followed at top speed the movements of the enemy. In the course of this phase of the fighting one cruiser of the *Achilles* or *Shannon* class and two destroyers were destroyed.' The *Hamburger Fremdenblatt* provides the following diagram of the turning